ADDRESS
OF THE DEWAN
TO THE
MYSORE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY
(DASARA SESSION)

13th OCTOBER 1921.

PART I.

GENTLEMEN,

By the command of His Highness the Maharaja, I welcome you to the thirty-eighth Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly and in doing so, shall, in accordance with practice, place before you a brief account of the administration of the State during the last year and of the measures contemplated during the current year. As usual, information on all routine matters connected with the administration is given in Part II of the Address which will be taken as read. With a view to concentrate attention on the more important points, some of the matters which till now were being dealt with in Part I have also been transferred by me to the other Part this year and I hope that this arrangement will commend itself to you.

Seasonal Conditions.

2. The shortage in the rainfall last year resulted in an appreciable decrease in the area under both dry and wet crops. The outturn of crops was so low in certain taluks as to call for suspension of a portion of the wet assessment. The seasons this year promise to be more favourable but we are not yet free from anxiety in respect of parts of the Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts. The *mungar* rains commenced hopefully in the second week of April and, although there was a break during the next month, the rains in June continued to maintain in some measure the promise of the earlier weeks. The *hingar*

rains of the past two months have been copious and most of the tanks in Bangalore, Mysore, Kolar and parts of Tumkur have received their full supply of water. With a view to meet the scarcity of fodder reported from parts of the districts which have not yet received adequate rainfall, some State Forests have been thrown open for free grazing. The situation in such tracts is being carefully watched and all needful measures will be adopted, should no signs of improvement manifest themselves.

The Loan.

3. In my Address to you at the last Birthday Session, I announced the decision of Government to float a new loan this year to meet the expenditure provided in the budget for the execution of capital works. The terms of the new loan were announced early in July. Two issues were offered with a view to meet the varying requirements of investors. One is a ten-year loan carrying interest at 7 per cent and issued at par and the other is a 6½ per cent long-term loan repayable in 20 to 30 years at par and issued at 97½ per cent. The loans were thrown open for subscription to all India with the kind permission of the Imperial Government from the beginning of August. The response, chiefly to the 7 per cent loan, has been very gratifying and the limit of one crore which was originally fixed to meet the budget provision for the year has been long past, the total subscriptions up to the 7th instant amounting to Rs. 198 lakhs. One noteworthy feature, indicative of an expanding market for our securities, is the large amount of subscriptions received from outside the State. Government have resolved to receive subscriptions up to a maximum of two crores and to restrict the expenditure on capital works during the next two years to this amount.

The Budget.

4. The budget estimates of the current year have already been dealt with in detail both in the Representative Assembly and in the Legislative Council. Since the estimates were sanctioned, there have been certain disturbing factors which affect both the receipt and expenditure sides of the budget. For instance, the estimates took credit for a revenue of Rs. 2 lakhs from the sale of sandal oil in the expectation that the prolonged slump in the market for oil would soon be terminated, but this expectation is not likely to be realised and the Government are

considering the measures to be taken to meet this unforeseen situation. The raising of the limit of the loan to two crores also necessitates an increased provision on account of Sinking Fund, Interest and incidental expenses. Although it is too early to forecast to what extent the anticipations in the budget may fail to be realised, it is clear that the situation demands further strenuous efforts to improve the financial position. I shall now explain the measures which the Government have already adopted towards this end.

5. The complicated procedure adopted hitherto by the Survey and Settlement Department in connection with the resettlement of taluks has, as you are well aware, considerably delayed the progress of resettlement operations as they fell due involving considerable loss of legitimate revenue. Government have decided that the field operations preliminary to resettlement should be restricted in future to what are strictly required for purposes of resettlement and that detailed field measurements and inspection of boundary marks should not be undertaken except to the extent that may be absolutely necessary. It is expected that with this simplified procedure about six taluks a year can be resettled and the arrears under this head cleared early.

6. Considerable retrenchments have been ordered and already given effect to in the sanctioned budget for the year. I may mention the more important among them for your information. A saving of Rs. 33,000 has been secured by reducing the establishment of the Survey Department. The staff of Village Improvement clerks in Taluk Offices and the Shekdari School were not found to be necessary and their abolition has resulted in a saving of Rs. 15,000. A sum of nearly Rs. 28,000 has been saved in the Forest Department by reducing the staff of the Forest School and by abolishing the Game Preserves establishment. In the Excise Department, economies to the extent of Rs. 37,000 have been effected by disbanding some establishments and by abolishing the separate appointments of District Excise Officers in the four districts in which the separation of judicial and executive functions rendered it possible to entrust the excise work to Revenue officers. The expenditure on the establishment of the Comptroller's Office has been reduced by about Rs. 33,000. Certain appointments of the Geological Department have not been allowed to be filled up and a charge of about Rs. 22,000 has thus been saved. Economies

amounting to over a lakh of rupees have been effected mainly by the abolition of appointments of District Economic Superintendents and by the reduction of subordinate establishments of the Economic Conference. Substantial retrenchments amounting to about Rs. 4 lakhs have been effected in the Military Department mainly by reducing the strength of horses in the Cavalry Regiments and by effecting economies in the upkeep of animals of the Imperial Service Transport Corps. The post of Chief Engineer, Cauvery Valley Irrigation, has been abolished.

7. Measures of retrenchments are continuing to receive attention and the following are the more important of them sanctioned since the budget was framed.

The permanent cadre of the Civil Service has been reduced by 14. Besides the abolition of a whole-time Efficiency Audit officer and of two other gazetted posts, material reductions in the subordinate clerical and menial staffs of the General and Revenue Secretariat have been ordered and the total savings amount to about Rs. 33,000. The post of the Forest Economist has been abolished. In the Police Department, the charges of two Superintendents have been converted into those of Assistant Superintendents and certain other reductions of establishments have also been effected. By a revision of District Sanitary establishments, a saving of about Rs. 29,000 in the Public Health Department has been secured.

Census.

8. The preliminary arrangements connected with the sixth decennial census were completed in time and the final enumeration of population was effected on the night of the 18th March 1921 synchronously with the rest of India. According to the provisional totals, the population of the State inclusive of the Civil and Military Station was 5,976,660 consisting of 3,045,999 males and 2,931,661 females. The total number of occupied houses was 1,205,959. The increase in population since the previous census is only 2·93 per cent. All the districts have contributed to this increase except Shimoga and Kadur in which the population shows a slight decline. The increase in the population of the cities of Bangalore, Kolar Gold Fields and Mysore is noteworthy. The rate of increase during the decennium is the lowest so far recorded. The disastrous outbreak of influenza in 1918 is undoubtedly one of the most important causes which have so adversely affected the growth of population during the last decade.

Land Revenue.

9. The total realisations of land revenue during the year amounted to Rs. 111 lakhs representing 92·5 per cent of the entire demand.

10. A census of agricultural stock was taken during the year. The total number of bulls and bullocks in the State was returned as 1,697,000 and of cows 1,717,156; disclosing an increase of 8 per cent under bulls and 6·6 per cent under cows, over the figures for the previous quinquennial census.

11. Government have during the year been able to come to a decision on the important question of the remission of assessment on lands under tanks which do not receive a sufficient supply of water in any year or series of years. This subject has been pressed by this Assembly for the consideration of Government on several occasions and I am happy to be able to announce that Government have decided that whenever in any tract, not less than half the atchkat under a tank is left uncultivated in any year or if cultivated, has yielded not more than a four-anna crop, the collection of half of the assessment on all the wet lands under the tank should be postponed for a year and that if similar conditions prevail in the next year also, the suspended assessment should be remitted. Rules embodying these principles are being drafted and the concessions will come into force as soon as the rules are approved and issued.

Educational Institutions.

12. With the exception of 704 aided Village Primary Schools which ceased working during the year for want of local support, all the educational institutions continued to work satisfactorily. The total number on the rolls of the Colleges increased from 832 to 1,005. The strength of the High Schools and A. V. Schools also rose from 6,193 to 6,386 and from 42,501 to 49,664 respectively. The results of the public examinations were satisfactory except in the Entrance Classes where only 282 candidates passed out of 911 sent up or only about 30 per cent. Out of 1,780 candidates who appeared for the S.S.L.C. Examination 777 including 18 girls were declared eligible for College study. 8,480 candidates appeared at the last Lower Secondary Examination, *viz.*, 3,742 for the English and 4,738 for the Kannada section. The percentage of passes was 61 and 46·3 respectively.

13. In order to provide accommodation for the large number of students who applied for admission to the University Entrance Classes with Science and Mathematics as their optional subjects, additional Science sections have been opened in the Collegiate High Schools at Bangalore, Mysore and Tumkur. The London Mission High School, Bangalore, has opened a University Entrance Class in Science and Mathematics. A University Entrance Class in History has also been opened in Banumaiya's High School at Mysore.

Educational Reform.

14. You are aware that the question of re-organising the entire system of Education in the State so as to improve its efficiency and develop it on sound lines has been engaging the attention of Government for the last two or three years. Final orders of Government on the Education Memorandum were issued in May last. The most important measures of reform therein sanctioned are the gradual conversion of aided Village Primary Schools to Government institutions, the development of Vernacular Middle Schools to A. V. Schools of a uniform type, the combination of practical with literary instruction and the establishment of a large number of industrial schools. The extension of the course of normal training, the provision of special facilities for the education of Panchamas and the revision of the scale of pay of all appointments in the tutorial line as well as of the inspectorate have also been sanctioned.

15. The execution of this programme involves an additional expenditure ranging from 14 lakhs to 21 lakhs in the course of five years. To meet this heavy expenditure Government directed the resumption of Local Funds General and Mohatarfa from local bodies to whom these items of revenue had been assigned in the year 1917 for providing additional facilities for education and medical relief in rural areas. The levy of an education cess under the Local Boards and Municipal Regulations was also sanctioned to enable local bodies to contribute towards the cost of primary education in rural and urban areas respectively. Government expected to be in a position to give effect to the more urgent of these measures from the commencement of this year by immediately resuming Local Funds General and Mohatarfa. It has however been represented by local bodies that they have recently adopted programmes of development work rely-

ing on these resources and that their expenditure has increased since 1917. The question as to how much of these items of revenue may be resumed from local bodies without unduly crippling their resources and what retrenchments the local bodies may be advised to effect, is engaging the attention of Government. These circumstances have delayed for a time the execution of the sanctioned reforms but Government hope to be in a position to take early action in carrying out the programme.

Educational Finance.

16. I may in this connection refer briefly to the increasing difficulties of financing educational expenditure in the State. The strength of all the secondary schools and colleges has been increasing rapidly in recent years. The question of finding accommodation is becoming more and more difficult. The State has already devoted 14 per cent of its revenues towards education and is faced on the one hand with the increasing demands of higher education which already takes up two-thirds of the present total expenditure and on the other with the claims of the rural population in respect of elementary education which cannot any longer be put off. In the present state of our finances any material addition to the allotments for education is out of the question. The increasing liabilities in respect of primary and higher education have therefore to be met by effecting suitable readjustments in the expenditure on education and securing the co-operation of local bodies in meeting a portion of the expenditure on primary education by local taxation.

Freeships and Scholarships.

17. Our rates of fees in schools and colleges are the lowest in any part of India. 40 per cent of the pupils in the Arts Colleges generally are free students. All students taking Physics and Chemistry in the B.Sc. classes are free. The percentage of freeships in the Engineering College is 50 while in the Maharani's College no fees are levied. In the University Entrance Classes 33⅓ per cent of the pupils and in High Schools 20 per cent are free. The total value of these freeships in the University and in the High Schools amounts to Rs. 87,000. If the recent abolition of fees in Middle Schools is also taken into account the total loss of fee income would amount to Rs. 2,37,000. In addition, the value of scholarships granted amounts to Rs. 4,47,828 including

one lakh allotted for scholarships to backward classes. Altogether, the total value of scholarships, freeships and free middle school education is over 6¾ lakhs, a figure equivalent to 15½ per cent of the total budget provision for education. In view of the urgent need for providing additional funds for education in all grades, it is a question for consideration whether a reduction of our present scale of scholarships and freeships is possible. The question of systematisation of scholarships has for some time been under consideration. The views of the University Council, the Board of Education and the Inspector-General have been before the Government and a Committee recently appointed to examine the whole position have submitted a revised scheme of scholarships proposing a reduction of the allotments for scholarships tenable within the State from Rs. 3,77,000 to Rs. 3,12,000 and those tenable in British India from Rs. 66,680 to Rs. 32,620, and also a small reduction in the number of freeships. These proposals are now under the consideration of Government. In the meantime, instructions have been issued to continue the freeships under the existing scale for the current year.

Industries.

18. The past year has furnished gratifying proof that the policy adopted by Government of pioneering new industries with a view to their transfer to private enterprise after the completion of the experimental stage has been fruitful of results. The Metal Factory started by Government in October 1917 with a view to introduce the manufacture of pressed hollow ware in the State has been taken over by an influential syndicate. Negotiations are in progress for the transfer of the Government Soap Factory also to a local syndicate. The Department of Industries deserves to be congratulated on the appreciation it has secured from business men who have come forward to take over on reasonable terms the industries it has pioneered. The right of working the Kaolin deposits discovered by the department near Bangalore has been transferred to a private company on certain concessional terms subject to the condition that the raw material should not be exported from the State.

19. There is evidence of considerable industrial activity in and near Bangalore and Mysore cities and various large concerns are rapidly coming into existence. Government have invited applications from Joint-stock

Companies and business men for the concessions that may be required to start certain industries for which facilities are locally available. Four applications for concessions for the establishment of a large Sugar Factory have been received and are under consideration.

20. The administration of the department has now entrusted to Mr. P. G. D'Souza, who has just returned been to Mysore after a study of industrial and commercial developments and organisation in Europe and Americ aduring the past ten months.

Bhadravati Iron Works.

21. Work in connection with the erection of the Wood Distillation Plant and Blast Furnace and the collection of raw materials for the undertaking is progressing satisfactorily. The total expenditure incurred for the works up to the end of August 1921 amounted to a little over Rs. 120 lakhs. Almost the whole of the expenditure estimated for the Wood Distillation and Blast Furnace Plants has been incurred. The remaining capital expenditure will mainly relate to the construction of Tramway lines, and the purchase of rope-way materials for bringing down the ore from Kemmangundi to the foot of the hill. The Wood Distillation Plant and Blast Furnace are almost ready. There has been some delay in the receipt of the equipment for water supply and the saw mill for billetting fuel. The whole plant is however expected to be ready for operation by July 1922.

22. Arrangements have been made for the mining of iron ore and flux near Chattanhalli and Sankaragudda in the Shimoga District as a temporary measure, pending the construction of the Kemmangundi rope-way. Sufficient quantities of material for the starting of operations have been mined and collected. The plant required for the crushing of ore and flux has been designed, and orders have been placed in England.

23. The two main lines of Tramway, *viz.*, the Bhadravati-Kemmangundi and Bhadravati-Agasanhadlu lines, of a total length of 45 miles, required for the transport of fuel for the works are almost complete and ballast trains are expected to be run shortly.

24. The buildings required for the accommodation of the staff in the new town of Bhadravati are expected to be completed by the end December 1921. Estimates have lately been sanctioned for the construction of quarters for the Forest and Railway staff also. A complete scheme of

water supply and drainage for the new town has al been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1½ lakhs. The work in progress.

Krishnarajasagara Project.

25. There has been substantial progress on this wo during the year. The gap in the dam has been raised t a height of 80 feet above the river bed, thus completin the storage contemplated for the first stage of the projec A portion of the body wall of the waste weir was construc ed up to 77 feet above bed level. All the works unde taken were completed before the monsoon and a flood 9 feet was safely passed over the river gap of the dam an also over the body wall of the waste weir in July last.

26. With the completion of the storage contemplate at the end of the first stage, Government have considere it necessary to examine the whole project afresh in ord to determine the best method of obtaining from th Reservoir as satisfactory a return as possible on the ou lay till now incurred and to revise the forecast of expend ture likely to be required in the further stages of th project with an estimate of the return therefrom. The have accordingly appointed a Committee under the chai manship of the Chief Engineer to examine the questio in all its bearings and submit an early report to Goverr ment. The terms of reference to the Committee includ among others the following:—

(1) The suitability of the revised estimates for th second stage and the minimum requirements under furthe works to be executed within the next ten years;

(2) The relative merits of the Irrigation an Power Schemes under the first stage and the propriet of debiting the entire cost of the first stage of the schem to the Cauvery Power Works;

(3) The prospects of Irrigation and Power revenu under the second stage;

(4) The advisability of undertaking the Hig Level Canal Project, and an estimate of its approximat cost and the revenue earnings which may be expected;

(5) The desirability of introducing a regulation o the model of the Irrigation Acts in force in Britis India with a view to further develop irrigation under th project.

27. The technical officers of Government have fo some time past been in consultation with the irrigatio experts of the Madras Government with a view to arriv

at a satisfactory agreement on the technical issues connected with the Cauvery Arbitration case. Their report which embodies the proposals which the technical officers of both the Governments would recommend for adoption as an equitable settlement of the dispute is now under consideration.

Railways.

28. The metre gauge line from Chickjajur to Chitaldrug (21 miles) was opened for traffic in May last. A two feet gauge forest tramway from Thadasa to Hebbe (9·8 miles) was also opened for timber traffic. The total mileage of railways now worked by the State is 402. The outlay on railway construction and surveys during the years was Rs. 21,68,000 and Rs. 30,600 respectively. Owing to the urgent necessity of incurring very large expenditure in bringing the open lines to a proper standard of efficiency, it has been considered desirable for the present not to proceed further with the construction of the metre gauge lines from Shimoga to Arasalu and from Nanjangud to Chamarajanagar.

Backward Communities and the Public Service.

29. Government have passed orders during the year on the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider the special measures to be taken to increase the representation of the backward communities in the public service and other allied questions. The Committee consisted of six non-official gentlemen, representatives of Brahmin and Non-brahmin communities, and was presided over by Sir Leslie Miller, Chief Judge of the Chief Court. The report of the Committee was received in August 1919, and the Government after mature deliberation and consultation with the heads of the principal departments passed their final orders in May last.

30. The Government, while not accepting the Committee's recommendations *in toto*, have decided that, *provided qualified candidates are available*, the proportion of the members of the backward communities in all departments of the State service should be gradually raised to 50 per cent of the total strength (exclusive of those in inferior service) within seven years. To achieve this end, Government have directed that during the above period of seven years candidates of backward communities should in respect of initial appointments be given preference over other candidates so long as they possess the prescribed qualifications.

31. As regards the qualifications prescribed for various appointments, the Government have directed that the existing rules be revised with reference to the needs and character of the work to be turned out. They have also sanctioned the formation of a Central Recruitment Board with one of the Members of Council as Chairman, to register all applications for appointment and to put applicants in touch with the offices where vacancies exist, and also to serve as a vigilance committee for watching the administration of the rules.

32. This order has been received with satisfaction by the great majority of the people of the State while certain sections have viewed it with apprehension. At the last Budget Session of the Legislative Council, I endeavoured to explain the essential equity of the policy on which the order is based and to allay the needless fears entertained in some quarters that it is likely to operate towards the total exclusion of members of the Brahmin community from the public service during the next seven years. But there still appears to be a great deal of misconception as to the object and the effect of the orders. I find that a number of questions relating to this subject have been put down for discussion during this Session. I therefore think it necessary to explain the matter at some length to remove misconceptions.

33. In the first place the recent orders do not involve a sudden and drastic change of policy on the part of the Government. As a matter of fact, these orders constitute no more than a legitimate and inevitable step in the direction of the fulfilment of a policy inaugurated by my distinguished predecessors. So long ago as 1892, in considering the question of recruitment to the Civil Service, Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, recorded a minute in which he wrote of the necessity "to maintain a proper proportion of all classes in the service" and remarked of the Brahmin community that "this class is already too well represented." During the tenure of Sir M. Visvesvaraya's office as Dewan, several measures were adopted for securing the increased representation of Non-brahmin communities in the public service. In 1914, a somewhat lower scale of qualification for Amildari appointments was prescribed for Non-brahmin candidates. In 1915 this principle was extended to the case of Shekdars. In 1916 Government ordered that members of communities backward in education should be more largely represented in the public service and directed that 25 per

cent of the appointments made in a year in a department or district should be given to qualified members of these communities. And in August 1918 the Government, in appointing the Miller Committee, said: "As there is at present a large preponderance of the Brahmin community n the public service, it is the desire of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that all the other important communities in the State should be adequately represented therein. The question as to what steps should be taken to encourage the members of such communities to seek employment under Government in larger numbers has long engaged attention."

34. Secondly, it is not intended to prescribe different scales of qualifications for different communities for entering the public service. The qualifications for any post will be the same for all candidates and the preference in favour of candidates of backward communities will not consist in exemption from the possession of these qualifications. But a duly qualified candidate of a backward community will not be passed over in favour of candidates of other communities who may happen to possess higher qualifications than those prescribed for the post.

35. Thirdly, the order applies solely to *initial appointments*. Promotion is to be based entirely on capacity and efficiency.

36. Lastly, there is no reason, as I explained to the Legislative Council, to fear that for the next seven years Brahmins will have no chance of admission to the public service. Such a result would undoubtedly follow if qualified candidates from among Non-brahmins should be forthcoming for all appointments falling vacant. But these communities are so backward in respect of higher education, that a sufficient number of candidates are not likely to be available from among them for some time to come.

37. It may be of interest to you if I mention that at the end of the year 1918, the total number of appointments in the superior services of the State was 13,946 of which 9,712 or 70 per cent were held by Brahmins and 30 per cent by others. What the recent orders of the Government seek to bring about is to gradually raise the representation of Non-brahmin communities from 30 to 50 per cent in the course of the next seven years.

38. In the light of the foregoing remarks it may be seen that these orders constitute no more than a measure

of justice due to the bulk of His Highness' subjects and it is indeed unfortunate that they should have provoked a bitter controversy in the public press and on the platform during the past few months. Is it too much to ask the leaders of the Brahmin community not to view this matter from the mere standpoint of communal interests, but to look at it from the point of view of the well-being of the whole body politic? To the Non-brahmins also I would say: The Government have recognised the justice of your claim to serve the State in an increasing degree and have afforded you special facilities in this behalf. Avail yourselves of your wider opportunities by training an increasing number of your young men for the public service and always show moderation in pressing your claims.—I believe that several of the leaders on both sides are already feeling that acrimonious controversy can do no good to themselves or to the State, and that the energies of all right-thinking people should be diverted towards constructive work in the regions of material and moral progress, and social reconstruction. I appeal to all, Brahmins and Non-brahmins, alike,—to their good sense, and to their patriotism,—to put an end to bitterness and strife and to work together for the well-being and advancement of the State as a whole. I cannot in this connection do better than commend to your earnest attention the gracious words used by His Highness the Maharaja in his reply to the Non-brahmin deputation in June 1918:—

"Gentlemen, I am anxious that these questions "should not create a cleavage among my people. While, "as I have already told you, I sympathise deeply with the "objects which you have generally in view and while my "Government will do its utmost to further your advance-"ment, it is my desire that in carrying on your propa-"ganda, you should be careful not to do anything that "would tend to mar the unity and harmonious relations "which have hitherto existed, among the different classes "of my subjects and which I consider are an essential "condition of all real progress. I trust that the Brahmin "community too, will on their part display a conciliatory "and tolerant spirit towards the other classes and show "practical sympathy with them in their natural aspira-"tions."

Before leaving this subject, I should like to say a word about certain remarks made by me at our last Session with reference to the withdrawal of subjects by certain

members of the Brahmin community. I am pained to see that those remarks have been taken as intended to cast a slur on those members and the community to which they belong. I wish to take this opportunity of asking them to accept the assurance that no slur or offence was intended and that those remarks were made in the discharge of the duty I owe to the Assembly as its President, to maintain the character of its debates.

Women's Franchise.

39. You are no doubt aware that the question of women's franchise is being agitated in different parts of India to-day. A deputation of ladies interested in the subject interviewed me in July last and pressed for the removal of sex disqualification in the matter of voting for and election to the Representative Assembly, the Legislative Council and Local and Municipal bodies. The deputation has been informed that the subject will be placed before the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council in due course.

40. The question, as far as it relates to elections to local bodies has, I find, been put down by one of the members; for discussion in the Assembly during the course of this Session and the Government will decide on the further action, if any, to be taken after ascertaining the sense of the Assembly as well as of the Legislative Council.

The Mysore Newspapers Regulation.

41. The repeal of the Mysore Newspapers Regulation, No. III of 1908, has been repeatedly urged for the consideration of Government by the members of this Assembly. Since the date of the enactment, no action by way of withdrawal of permission to publish a newspaper has been taken although warnings had to be administered in a few cases, and permission to publish a newspaper has been refused in a number of cases where the applicants were men of doubtful antecedents or whose training was obviously inadequate for the responsibility of giving a lead to public opinion. The penalties provided in this Regulation are not graduated to the nature of the offence and are so drastic that there is reason to believe that it operates as a distinct obstacle in the way of the development of free and independent journalism. The question of the repeal or amendment of the existing law is now under the consideration of the Government.

42. In this connection I wish to draw your attention to the character of some of the articles and correspondence latterly appearing in a few of the newspapers in the State. Many of these appear to be inspired by the deliberate purpose of exciting class hatred and creating disaffection. The Government have so far refrained from taking action against such newspapers in the hope that the strong common sense of the public will itself afford the necessary corrective. In view of my appeal to all classes to sink their communal differences in the service of the State, I confidently look forward to a cessation of such writings and a decided improvement in the tone of the press.

Visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

43. Before concluding, it is my pleasing duty to announce to you that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been pleased to accept the invitation of His Highness the Maharaja to include our State in the itinerary of his tour in India during the ensuing cold weather. Fifteen years ago we had the great privilege of welcoming His Imperial Majesty King George V who, as Prince of Wales, was graciously pleased to honour Mysore with a visit, and we rejoice in this renewed evidence of Royal good-will towards us. His Royal Highness is welcome amongst us both for the proof he brings of the place that Mysore retains in the thoughts of the British Royal House and also for his own charming and gracious personality which has commanded universal love and admiration in all parts of His Majesty's world-wide dominions; and we eagerly look forward to his visit as the means of further strengthening the ties which bind Mysore to the great British Empire to which we are proud to belong, and on whose strength and justice the peace and progress of the world so largely depend. His Royal Highness is expected to arrive in Bangalore on the morning of the 18th January next and will leave the same night for Mysore where he will spend five days, including a shooting trip to Karapur. His Highness the Maharaja has no doubt that his subjects in all parts of the State will join in according to his august Guest an enthusiastic reception, fully in keeping with their ingrained sentiment of profound loyalty and devotion to the British Throne.

M. KANTARAJ URS,
Dewan of Mysore.